

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00280 101209Z

12/14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 OPR-02 OC-05

CCO-00 SAM-01 AID-05 CU-02 IO-11 /090 W

----- 048289

O R 100859Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8050

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 280

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT--PARAGRAH 2.)

FOR NEA/ARN DRAPER, OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. LAST NIGHT WAS AS BAD AS ANY WE HAVE EXPERIENCED YET. FIGHTING HAS RETURNED TO HOTEL AREA WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND MORTARS/ROCKETS BEING USED. TEL ZAATAR PROBLEM STILL NOT RPT NOT SOLVED, AND SITUATION MAY RPT MAY BE BE-YOND CHAMOUN'S AND GEMAYEL'S CONTROL. THIS IS OF COURSE DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE, BUT ACCORDING TO PRESS, BOTH GEMAYEL AND CHAMOUN ARE DISASSOCIATING THEMSELVES FROM TEL ZAATAR BLOCKADE.

2. THREE ARMED INCURSIONS INTO AUB CAMPUS LAST EVENING.

(OBJECTIVE: AUTO STEALING)

TIRST AT 1700 LOCAL. LAST AT 2100 LOCAL. CHAMOUN INFORMED.

KIRKWOOD COULD NOT RPT NOT REACH KARAME, BUT OTHER

SECURITY PERSONNEL ADVISED. ALL LEBANESE EXPRESS CONCERN

AND ARE ENDEVORING TO IMPROVE SECURITY. FOREGOING DOES NOT

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RPT NOT APPEAR TO HAVE AFFECTED STUDENT BODY IN ANY MAN-

NER AND CLASSES CONTINUING AS USUAL.

3. LAST EVENING DEAN OF AUB AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT TOLD US THAT FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES AUB FARM IN BEKAA MUST BE WRITTEN OFF. THIS IS INDEED A GREAT TRAGEDY TO THE DETRIMENT OF LEBANESE ECONOMY.

4. INSECURITY CAME TO YARZE LAST NIGHT WHEN ALLEGEDLY 10 ARMED MEN DISARMED TWO GENDARMES GUARDING EMPTY DUTCH RESIDENCE. THIS IS SOMEWHAT DISTURBING IN THAT DUTCH RESIDENCE ADJACENT TO BELGIUM RESIDENCE, 300 YARDS FROM GERMAN RESIDENCE, 600 FROM AMERICAN, AND 1 KILOMETER FROM PRESIDENT'S HOUSE. GUARDS AT SAUDI RESIDENCE AT TOP OF HILL NEXT TO JESUIT NOTRE DAME COLLEGE ALSO DISARMED.

5. LOCAL POLITICAL SCENE APPEARS DEAD CENTER OR EVEN WORSE IN THAT CHAMOUN SAYS "KARAME IS NOTHING" AND KARAME SAYS "MININT CAN BE FORGIVEN DUE HIS AGE."

6. FOLLOWING PRESIDENTIAL CONFIDANTS LUCIEN DAHDAH AND BOUTROS EL-KHOURY TRIPS TO DAMASCUS MANY ANTICIPATE FRANGIE-ASSAD MEETING. THERE IS ALSO TALK OF KARAME-ASAD GET-TOGETHER, BUT MY HUNCH IS THAT FRANGIE WILL MEET THE SYRIAN PRESIDENT FIRST.

7. WITH RENEWED HOTEL AREA FIGHTING, WE ARE VACATING TOP TWO FLOORS OF EMBASSY. I AM SLEEPING IN TOWN THESE DAYS.
GODLEY

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NNN

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